

From: Scott Starkey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:02am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Respectfully, I am against the proposed Microsoft settlement, and have several problems with it. My foremost reason is, Microsoft has proven itself time and time again to be an abusive monopoly, doing almost anything to stifle competition and promote their own products.

I have a problem with the fact that Microsoft enters into liscencing agreements with all of the big computer makers (Compaq, Dell, Gateway) so that the maker cannot sell a computer without also selling a copy of Windows. If I want RedHat Linux on a computer from Dell, they would be forced to also sell me a copy of Windows, even if I don't want it. Because of their strict license, I would not be able to resell this unused copy of Windows.

Most of the viruses that you hear about on the news today are as a direct result of security flaws from Microsoft products. Microsoft has consistently tried to hide security information from its users until it can fix its mistakes, but the cover-up almost never works. Hackers will find the security flaws first, and exploit them before the public knows about them. Unfortunately, Microsoft treats security flaws like PR problems. This is dangerous when the general public has little choice but to buy a Microsoft product, so the security flaws are just as ubiquitous.

Microsoft often uses its propaganda machine to defame other operating systems. Their leadership has spoken freely against Linux and free software, calling it "viral software" and telling half-truths against it. Microsoft staff members have been found to doctor on-line polls to improve Microsoft's image. Microsoft manufactures "grass-roots campaigns" to support their image. I can imagine the Microsoft PR-machine is flooding you right now with "The settlement is okay." messages. I write you this message with the sincere hope that my letter will cancel out one of those bogus messages.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to state my opinion.

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